

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method and mechanism for testing communication links. A transmitter contact,
5 or transmission point, is assigned a unique identifier. During a given test, the transmitter
conveys a test pattern to a receiver via a link. Following this test pattern, the transmitter
transmits a bit of its unique identifier to the receiver. The receiver receives both the test
pattern and the identifier bit, and determines whether the received test pattern matches an
10 expected value. If the test pattern was correctly received by the receiver, the receiver
transmits the received identifier bit back to the transmitter. However, if the received test
pattern is not correct, the receiver complements the received identifier bit and transmits
the complemented bit back to the transmitter. The transmitter receives the identifier bit
from the receiver and determines whether it matches the identifier bit which was
15 originally transmitted by the transmitter. If the returned identifier bit does not match what
was originally transmitted, the transmitter records an error.